Delta Dental PPO℠

Our national PPO program

Welcome!

Your dental program is administered by Delta Dental of North Carolina, a North Carolina nonprofit health service plan corporation. Delta Dental of North Carolina is the state's dental benefits specialist. Good oral health is a vital part of good general health, and your Delta Dental program is designed to promote regular dental visits. We encourage you to take advantage of this program by calling your Dentist today for an appointment.

This Certificate, along with your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits, describes the specific benefits of your Delta Dental program and how to use them. If you have any questions about this program, please call our Customer Service department at (800) 662-8856 or access our website at www.deltadentalnc.com.

You can easily verify your own benefit, claims and eligibility information online 24 hours a day, seven days a week by visiting www.deltadentalnc.com and selecting the link for our Consumer Toolkit. The Consumer Toolkit will also allow you to print claim forms and ID cards, select paperless Explanation of Benefits statements (EOBs), search our Dentist directories, and read oral health tips.

We look forward to serving you!

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Note: Please read this Certificate together with the Summary of Dental Plan Benefits. The Summary of Dental Plan Benefits lists the specific provisions of your group dental plan. If a statement in the Summary conflicts with a statement in this Certificate, the statement in the Summary applies to This Plan and you should ignore the conflicting statement in this Certificate.

NOTICE: IF YOU OR YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS ARE COVERED BY MORE THAN ONE HEALTH CARE AND/OR DENTAL CARE PLAN, YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COLLECT BENEFITS FROM BOTH PLANS. EACH PLAN MAY REQUIRE YOU TO FOLLOW ITS RULES OR USE SPECIFIC DENTISTS, AND IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLY WITH BOTH PLANS AT THE SAME TIME. READ ALL OF THE RULES VERY CAREFULLY, INCLUDING THE COORDINATION OF BENEFITS SECTION, AND COMPARE THEM WITH THE RULES OF ANY OTHER PLAN THAT COVERS YOU OR YOUR FAMILY.

I. Delta Dental PPO Certificate

Delta Dental of North Carolina, referred to herein as Delta Dental, issues this Certificate to you, the Subscriber. The Certificate is a summary of your dental benefits coverage. It reflects and is subject to a contract between Delta Dental and the Contractor.

The Benefits provided under This Plan may change if any state or federal laws change.

Delta Dental agrees to provide Benefits as described in this Certificate and the Summary of Dental Plan Benefits.

All the provisions in the following pages form a part of this document as fully as if they were stated over the signature below.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Certificate is executed at Delta Dental's home office by an authorized officer.

Curtis R. Ladig, CPA
President and CEO
Delta Dental of North Carolina

II. Definitions

Adverse Benefit Determination

Any denial, reduction or termination of the benefits for which you filed a claim. Or a failure to provide or to make payment (in whole or in part) of the benefits you sought, including any such determination based on eligibility, application of any utilization review criteria, or a determination that the item or service for which benefits are otherwise provided was experimental or investigational, or was not medically necessary or appropriate.

Allowed Amount

The amount permitted under the applicable fee schedule for this Plan, which was selected by the Contractor , and upon which Delta Dental will base its payment for a Covered Service.

Benefit Year

The period during which any benefit frequency limitation and/or annual maximum payment will apply. This will be the calendar year, unless the Contractor elects a different period to serve as the Benefit Year. (See the Summary of Dental Plan Benefits for your Benefit Year.) If the Benefit Year is based upon a calendar year, the terms Benefit Year and Calendar Year may be used interchangeably.

Benefits

Payment for the Covered Services that have been selected under This Plan.

Certificate

This document. Delta Dental will provide Benefits as described in this Certificate. Any changes in this Certificate will be based on changes to the contract between Delta Dental and the Contractor.

Child(ren)

Your natural Children, stepchildren, adopted Children, foster Children, Children by virtue of legal guardianship, or Children who are residing with you during the waiting period for adoption or legal guardianship.

Claim

A request for payment for a Covered Service. Claims are not conditioned upon your seeking advance approval, certification, or authorization to receive payment for any Covered Service.

Completion Date

The date that treatment is complete. Some procedures may require more than one appointment before they can be completed. Treatment is complete:

- For dentures and partial dentures, on the delivery dates;
- For crowns and bridgework, on the permanent cementation date;
- For root canals and periodontal treatment, on the date of the final procedure that completes treatment.

Coinsurance

The percentage of the charge, if any, that you must pay for Covered Services.

Contractor

The employer, organization, group, or association sponsoring This Plan.

Covered Services

The unique dental services selected for coverage as described in the Summary of Dental Plan Benefits and subject to the terms of this Certificate.

Deductible

The amount a person and/or a family must pay toward Covered Services before Delta Dental begins paying for those services under this Certificate. The Summary of Dental Plan Benefits lists the Deductible that applies to you, if any.

Delta Dental

Delta Dental of North Carolina, a nonprofit health service plan corporation providing dental benefits. Delta Dental is not an insurance company.

Delta Dental Member Plan

An individual dental benefit plan that is a member of the Delta Dental Plans Association, the nation's largest, most experienced system of dental health plans.

Delta Dental Premier® Dentist Schedule

The maximum fee allowed per procedure for services rendered by a Premier Dentist as determined by that Dentist's local Delta Dental Member Plan.

Deny/Denied/Denial

When a Claim for a particular service is denied for payment due to certain contractual limitations/exclusions. You will be responsible for paying your Dentist the applicable amount for such service regardless of the Dentist's participating status.

Dentist

A person licensed to practice dentistry in the state or jurisdiction in which dental services are performed.

- **Delta Dental PPO Dentist ("PPO Dentist")** – a Dentist who has signed an agreement with the Delta Dental Plan in his or her state to participate in Delta Dental PPO.
- **Delta Dental Premier Dentist ("Premier Dentist")** – a Dentist who has signed an agreement with the Delta Dental Plan in his or her state to participate in Delta Dental Premier.
- **Nonparticipating Dentist** – a Dentist who has not signed an agreement with any Delta Dental Plan to participate in Delta Dental PPO or Delta Dental Premier.
- **Out-of-Country Dentist** – A Dentist whose office is located outside the United States and its territories. Out-of-Country Dentists are not eligible to sign participating agreements with Delta Dental.

Delta Dental PPO Dentists and Delta Dental Premier Dentists are sometimes collectively referred to herein as **"Participating Dentists."** Wherever a definition or provision of this Certificate differs from another state's Delta Dental Plan and its agreement with Participating Dentists, the agreement in that state with that Dentist will be controlling.

Delta Dental Premier Dentists, Nonparticipating Dentists, and Out-of-Country Dentists are sometimes collectively referred to herein as **"Non-PPO Dentists."**

Dependent(s)

Your dependents are as defined by the rules of eligibility as stated in your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits.

Enrollee

You, when the Contractor notifies Delta Dental that you are eligible to receive Benefits under This Plan.

Maximum Approved Fee

A system used by Delta Dental to determine the approved fee for a given procedure for a given Participating Dentist. A fee meets Maximum Approved Fee requirements if it is the lowest of:

- The Submitted Amount
- The lowest fee regularly charged, offered, or received by an individual Dentist for a dental service or supply, irrespective of the Dentist's contractual agreement with another dental benefits organization.
- The maximum fee that the local Delta Dental Plan approves for a given procedure in a given region and/or specialty, under normal circumstances, based upon applicable Participating Dentist schedules and internal procedures.

Participating Dentists agree not to charge Delta Dental patients more than the Maximum Approved Fee for a Covered Service. In all cases, Delta Dental will make the final determination regarding the Maximum Approved Fee for a Covered Service.

Maximum Payment

The maximum dollar amount Delta Dental will pay in any Benefit Year or lifetime for Covered Services. See the Summary of Dental Plan Benefits for the maximum payments applicable to This Plan.

Member

Any Enrollee or Dependent with coverage under This Plan.

Nonparticipating Dentist Fee

The maximum fee allowed per procedure for services rendered by a Nonparticipating Dentist as determined by Delta Dental.

Open Enrollment Period

The period of time, as determined by the Contractor, during which a Member may enroll or be enrolled for Benefits.

Out-of-Country Dentist Fee

The maximum fee allowed per procedure for services rendered by an Out-of-Country Dentist as determined by Delta Dental.

PPO Dentist Schedule

The maximum fee allowed per procedure for services rendered by a PPO Dentist as determined by that Dentist's local Delta Dental Member Plan.

Pre-Treatment Estimate

A voluntary and optional process where Delta Dental issues a written estimate of dental benefits that may be available under your coverage for your proposed dental treatment. Your Dentist submits the proposed dental treatment to Delta Dental in advance of providing the treatment.

A Pre-Treatment Estimate is for informational purposes only and is not required before you receive any dental care. It is not a prerequisite or condition for approval of future dental benefits payment. You will receive the same Benefits under This Plan whether or not a Pre-Treatment Estimate is requested. The Benefits estimate provided on a Pre-Treatment Estimate notice is based on Benefits available on the date the notice is issued. It is not a guarantee of future dental benefits or payment.

Availability of dental benefits at the time your treatment is completed depends on several factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, your continued eligibility for benefits, your available annual or lifetime Maximum Payments, any coordination of benefits, the status of your Dentist, This Plan's limitations and any other provisions, together with any additional information or changes to your dental treatment. A request for a Pre-Treatment Estimate is not a claim for Benefits or a preauthorization, precertification or other reservation of future Benefits.

Processing Policies

Delta Dental's policies and guidelines used for Pre-Treatment Estimate and payment of claims. The Processing Policies may be amended from time to time.

Special Enrollment Period

A period outside of the Open Enrollment Period in which you or your Dependent can obtain coverage under This Plan due to a qualifying life event.

Spouse

Your legal spouse.

Submitted Amount

The amount a Dentist bills to Delta Dental for a specific treatment or service. A Participating Dentist cannot charge you or your Dependents for the difference between this amount and the Maximum Approved Fee.

Summary of Dental Plan Benefits

A description of the specific provisions of your group dental coverage. The Summary of Dental Plan Benefits is and should be read as a part of this Certificate, and supersedes any contrary provision of this Certificate.

This Plan

The dental coverage established for Members pursuant to this Certificate and your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits.

III. Enrolling in this Plan

The Open Enrollment Period, if applicable, will be established by the Contractor and will occur on an annual basis. During the Open Enrollment Period, all eligible persons as defined in your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits may enroll in This Plan. You and/or your Dependents may not enroll in This Plan at any other time during the applicable Benefit Year except in the following instances:

a. Newly hired or rehired employees (if applicable): You will be eligible to enroll on the date for which employment compensation begins or, if applicable, that date plus the number of days specified as a waiting period in the Summary of Dental Plan Benefits.

b. New Spouse: Your new Spouse will be eligible to enroll on the date of marriage.

c. Newborn: Your newborn will be eligible to enroll on the date of birth.

d. Legal adoptions or guardianships: Your newly adopted Child(ren) and/or the minor Child(ren) that you and/or your Spouse have guardianship over will be eligible to enroll on the date that the legal petition for adoption or guardianship becomes legally final, or the date on which the Child(ren) begins residing with the Enrollee and the Enrollee assumes responsibility for the Child(ren) while waiting for adoption or guardianship to become final.

e. New Stepchild: Your new stepchild will be eligible to enroll on the date that the Child's natural parent becomes a Dependent.

f. To the extent the Contractor permits Dependents other than those defined in this Certificate to enroll in This Plan, such Dependents will be eligible to enroll on the date that they become an eligible Dependent. Any such additional Dependents permitted by the Contractor shall be set forth in your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits.

g. All others will be permitted on the date that Delta Dental approves in writing the enrollment or listing of those people, unless compelled by a court or administrative order to otherwise provide Benefits for a Dependent.

IV. Selecting a Dentist

You may choose any Dentist. Your out-of-pocket costs are likely to be less if you go to a Delta Dental Participating Dentist.

To verify that a Dentist is a Participating Dentist, you can use Delta Dental's online Dentist Directory at www.deltadentalnc.com or call (800) 662-8856.

V. Accessing Your Benefits

To utilize your dental benefits, follow these steps:

1. Please read this Certificate and the Summary of Dental Plan Benefits carefully so you are familiar with your benefits, payment methods, and terms of This Plan.
2. Make an appointment with your Dentist and tell him or her that you have dental benefits with Delta Dental. If your Dentist is not familiar with This Plan or has any questions, have him or her contact Delta Dental by writing to Delta Dental, Attention: Customer Service, P.O. Box 9089, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48333-9089, or calling the toll-free number at (800) 662-8856.
3. After you receive your dental treatment, you or the dental office staff will file a claim form, completing the information portion with:
   a. The Enrollee's full name and address
   b. The Enrollee's Member ID number
   c. The name and date of birth of the person receiving dental care
   d. The Contractor's name and number

Notice of Claim Forms

Delta Dental does not require special claim forms. However, most dental offices have claim forms available. Participating Dentists will fill out and submit your dental claims for you.

Mail claims and completed information requests to:

Delta Dental
P.O. Box 9085
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48333-9085

Pre-Treatment Estimate

A Pre-Treatment Estimate is not required to receive payment, but it allows claims to be processed more efficiently and allows you to know what services may be covered before your Dentist provides them. You and your Dentist should review your Pre-Treatment Estimate Notice before treatment. Once treatment is complete, the dental office will submit a claim to Delta Dental for payment.

Written Notice of Claim and Time of Payment

Because the amount of your Benefits is not conditioned on a Pre-Treatment Estimate decision by Delta Dental, all claims under This Plan are Post-Service Claims. All claims for Benefits must be filed with Delta Dental within

one year of the date the services were completed. Once a claim is filed, Delta Dental will decide it within 30 days of receiving it. If there is not enough information to decide your claim, Delta Dental will notify you or your Dentist within 30 days. The notice will (a) describe the information needed, (b) explain why it is needed, (c) request an extension of time in which to decide the claim, and (d) inform you or your Dentist that the information must be received within 45 days or your claim will be denied. You will receive a copy of any notice sent to your Dentist. Once Delta Dental receives the requested information, it has 15 days to decide your claim. If you or your Dentist does not supply the requested information, Delta Dental will have no choice but to deny your claim. Once Delta Dental decides your claim, it will notify you within five days.

Authorized Representative

You may also appoint an authorized representative to deal with Delta Dental on your behalf with respect to any benefit claim you file or any review of a denied claim you wish to pursue (see the Claims Appeal Procedure section). You should contact your Human Resources department, call Delta Dental's Customer Service department, toll-free, at (800) 662-8856, or write them at P.O. Box 9089, Farmington Hills, Michigan, 48333-9089, to request a form to designate the person you wish to appoint as your representative. While in some circumstances your Dentist is treated as your authorized representative, generally Delta Dental only recognizes the person whom you have authorized on the last dated form filed with Delta Dental. Once you have appointed an authorized representative, Delta Dental will communicate directly with your representative and will not inform you of the status of your claim. You will have to get that information from your representative. If you have not designated a representative, Delta Dental will communicate directly with you.

Questions and Assistance

Questions regarding your coverage should be directed to your Human Resources department or call Delta Dental's Customer Service department, toll-free, at (800) 662-8856. You may also write to Delta Dental's Customer Service department at P.O. Box 9089, Farmington Hills, Michigan, 48333-9089. When writing to Delta Dental, please include your name, the group's name and number, the Enrollee's Member ID number, and your daytime telephone number.

VI. How Payment is Made

Delta Dental shall make payments for covered services in accordance with the plan selected by the Contractor. Your Plan will be identified on your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits.

Delta Dental PPO plus Premier

If your Dentist is a Participating Dentist, Delta Dental will base payment on the Maximum Approved Fee for Covered Services.

Delta Dental will send payment directly to Participating Dentists and you will be responsible for any applicable Copayments or Deductibles. Unless prohibited by state law, you will be responsible for the Maximum Approved Fee for most commonly performed non-covered services. For other non-covered services, you will be responsible for the Dentist's Submitted Amount.

If your Dentist is a Nonparticipating Dentist, Delta Dental will base payment on the Nonparticipating Dentist Fee for Covered Services.

If your Dentist is an Out-of-Country Dentist, Delta Dental will base payment on the Out-of-Country Dentist Fee for Covered Services.

For Covered Services rendered by a Nonparticipating Dentist or Out-of-Country Dentist, Delta Dental will usually send payment to you, and you will be responsible for making full payment to the Dentist. You will be responsible for any difference between Delta Dental's payment and the Dentist's Submitted Amount.

Delta Dental PPO (Standard)

Whether your Dentist is a PPO Dentist or not, Delta Dental will base its payment on the lesser of the Submitted Amount or the PPO Dentist Schedule.

Delta Dental will send payment directly to Participating Dentists and you will be responsible for any applicable Copayments or Deductibles. If your Dentist is not a PPO Dentist, but is a Premier Dentist, you will also be responsible for any difference between the PPO Dentist Schedule and the Premier Dentist Schedule for Covered Services, in addition to Copayments or Deductibles. Unless prohibited by state law, you will be responsible for the Maximum Approved Fee for most commonly performed non-covered services. For other non-covered services, you will be responsible for the Dentist's Submitted Amount.

For Covered Services rendered by a Nonparticipating Dentist or Out-of-Country Dentist, Delta Dental will usually send payment to you, and you will be responsible for making full payment to the Dentist. You will be responsible for any difference between Delta Dental's payment and the Dentist's Submitted Amount.

Orthodontics

If This Plan includes orthodontics it will be identified on and paid as reflected in your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits Covered Services.

Covered Services Requiring Multiple Visits

In the event a Covered Service requires more than one (1) visit with your Dentist, payment for the Covered Service will be rendered upon Completion Date.

VII. Benefit Categories

The Benefits covered by This Plan are set forth in your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits.

VIII. Exclusions and Limitations

Exclusions

Delta Dental will make no payment for the following services or supplies, unless otherwise specified in the Summary of Dental Plan Benefits. All charges for these services will be your responsibility:

1. Services or supplies for the treatment of an occupational injury or sickness which are paid under the North Carolina Worker's Compensation Act only to the extent such services or supplies are the liability of the employee, employer or workers' compensation insurance carrier according to a final

adjudication under the North Carolina Workers' Compensation Act or an order of the North Carolina Industrial Commission approving a settlement agreement under the North Carolina Workers' Compensation Act.

2. Services received from any government agency, political subdivision, community agency, foundation, or similar entity.

   NOTE: This provision does not apply to any programs provided under Medicaid or Medicare.

3. Services or supplies, as determined by Delta Dental, for correction of congenital or developmental malformations, except for the correction of congenital defects or anomalies (including treatment and care for cleft lip or cleft palate) with respect to newborn Children, adopted Children, foster Children, and Children covered by virtue of court or administrative order.

4. Cosmetic surgery or dentistry for aesthetic reasons, as determined by Delta Dental, except for the correction of congenital defects or anomalies (including treatment and care for cleft lip or cleft palate) with respect to newborn Children, adopted Children, foster Children, and Children covered by virtue of court or administrative order.

5. Services completed or appliances completed before a person became eligible under This Plan. This exclusion does not apply to orthodontic treatment in progress (if a Covered Service).

6. Prescription drugs (except intramuscular injectable antibiotics), premedication, medicaments/ solutions, and relative analgesia.

7. General anesthesia and intravenous sedation for (a) surgical procedures, unless medically necessary, or (b) restorative dentistry.

8. Charges for hospitalization, laboratory tests, and histopathological examinations.

9. Charges for failure to keep a scheduled visit with the Dentist.

10. Services or supplies, as determined by Delta Dental, for which no valid dental need can be demonstrated.

11. Services or supplies, as determined by Delta Dental, that are investigational in nature, including services or supplies required to treat complications from investigational procedures.

12. Services or supplies, as determined by Delta Dental, which are specialized techniques.

13. Treatment by other than a Dentist, except for services performed by a licensed dental hygienist under the supervision of a licensed dentist.

14. Treatment rendered by any other dental professional, may be covered only as determined by the Contractor and/or Delta Dental.Services or supplies for which the patient is not legally obligated to pay, or for which no charge would be made in the absence of Delta Dental coverage.

15. Services or supplies covered under a hospital, surgical/medical, or prescription drug program.

16. Services or supplies that are not within the categories of Benefits selected by the Contractor and that are not covered under the terms of this Certificate.

17. Fluoride rinses, self-applied fluorides, or desensitizing medicaments.

18. Interim caries arresting medicament.

19. Preventive control programs (including oral hygiene instruction, caries susceptibility tests, dietary control, tobacco counseling, home care medicaments, etc.).

20. Sealants.

21. Space maintainers for maintaining space due to premature loss of anterior primary teeth.

22. Lost, missing, or stolen appliances of any type and replacement or repair of orthodontic appliances or space maintainers.

23. Cosmetic dentistry, as determined by Delta Dental, except for the correction of congenital defects or anomalies (including treatment and care for cleft lip or cleft palate) with respect to newborn Children, adopted Children, foster Children, and Children covered by virtue of court or administrative order.

24. Veneers.

25. Prefabricated crowns used as final restorations on permanent teeth.

26. Appliances, surgical procedures, and restorations for increasing vertical dimension; for altering, restoring, or maintaining occlusion; for replacing tooth structure loss resulting from attrition, abrasion, abfraction, or erosion; or for periodontal splinting. If Orthodontic Services are Covered Services, this exclusion will not apply to Orthodontic Services as limited by the terms and conditions of the contract between Delta Dental and the Contractor.

27. Implant/abutment supported interim fixed denture for endentulous arch.

28. Soft occlusal guard appliances.

29. Paste-type root canal fillings on permanent teeth.

30. Replacement, repair, relines, or adjustments of occlusal guards.

31. Chemical curettage.

32. Services associated with overdentures.

33. Metal bases on removable prostheses.

34. The replacement of teeth beyond the normal complement of teeth.

35. Personalization or characterization of any service or appliance.

36. Temporary crowns used for temporization during crown or bridge fabrication.

37. Posterior bridges in conjunction with partial dentures in the same arch.

38. Precision attachments and stress breakers.

39. Biologic materials to aid in soft and osseous tissue regeneration when submitted on the same day as soft tissue grafting, guided tissue regeneration, and periodontal or implant bone grafting.
40. Bone replacement grafts and specialized implant surgical techniques, including radiographic/surgical implant index.
41. Appliances, restorations, or services for the diagnosis or treatment of disturbances of the temporomandibular joint.
42. Diagnostic photographs and cephalometric films, unless done for orthodontics and orthodontics are a Covered Service.
43. Myofunctional therapy.
44. Mounted case analyses.
45. Any and all taxes applicable to the services.
46. Processing policies may otherwise exclude payment by Delta Dental for services or supplies.

Delta Dental will make no payment for the following services or supplies. Participating Dentists may not charge Members for these services or supplies. All charges from Nonparticipating Dentists for the following services or supplies are your responsibility:

1. Services or supplies, as determined by Delta Dental, which are not provided in accordance with generally accepted standards of dental practice.
2. The completion of forms or submission of claims.
3. Consultations, patient screening, or patient assessment when performed in conjunction with examinations or evaluations.
4. Local anesthesia.
5. Acid etching, cement bases, cavity liners, and bases or temporary fillings.
6. Infection control.
7. Temporary, interim, or provisional crowns.
8. Gingivectomy as an aid to the placement of a restoration.
9. The correction of occlusion, when performed with prosthetics and restorations involving occlusal surfaces.
10. Diagnostic casts, when performed in conjunction with restorative or prosthodontic procedures.
11. Palliative treatment, when any other service is provided on the same date except X-rays and tests necessary to diagnose the emergency condition.
12. Post-operative X-rays, when done following any completed service or procedure.
13. Periodontal charting.
14. Pins and preformed posts, when done with core buildups for crowns, onlays, or inlays.
15. Any substructure when done for inlays, onlays, and veneers.
16. A pulp cap, when done with a sedative filling or any other restoration. A sedative or temporary filling, when done with pulpal debridement for the relief of acute pain prior to conventional root canal therapy or another endodontic procedure. The opening and drainage of a tooth or palliative treatment, when done by the same Dentist or dental office on the same day as completed root canal treatment.
17. A pulpotomy on a permanent tooth, except on a tooth with an open apex.
18. A therapeutic apical closure on a permanent tooth, except on a tooth where the root is not fully formed.
19. Retreatment of a root canal by the same Dentist or dental office within two years of the original root canal treatment.
20. A prophylaxis or full mouth debridement, when done on the same day as periodontal maintenance or scaling in the presence of gingival inflammation.
21. Scaling in the presence of gingival inflammation when done on the same day as periodontal maintenance.
22. Prophylaxis, scaling in the presence of gingival inflammation, or periodontal maintenance when done within 30 days of three or four quadrants of scaling and root planing or other periodontal treatment.
23. Full mouth debridement when done within 30 days of scaling and root planing.
24. Scaling and debridement in the presence of inflammation or mucositis of a single implant, including cleaning of the implant surfaces without flap entry and closure, when performed within 12 months of implant restorations, provisional implant crowns and implant or abutment supported interim dentures.
25. Full mouth debridement, when done on the same day as comprehensive evaluation.
26. An occlusal adjustment, when performed on the same day as the delivery of an occlusal guard.
27. Reline, rebase, or any adjustment or repair within six months of the delivery of a partial denture.
28. Tissue conditioning, when performed on the same day as the delivery of a denture or the reline or rebase of a denture.
29. Periapical and/or bitewing X-rays, when done within a clinically unreasonable period of time of performing panoramic and/or full mouth X-rays, as determined solely by Delta Dental.
30. Teledentistry fees.
31. Processing policies may otherwise exclude payment by Delta Dental for services or supplies.

Limitations

The Benefits for the following services or supplies are limited as follows, unless otherwise specified in the Summary of Dental Plan Benefits. All charges for services or supplies that exceed these

reductions will be your responsibility. All time limitations are measured from the applicable prior dates of services in our records with any Delta Dental Member Plan or, at the request of the Contractor, any dental plan:

1. Bitewing X-rays are payable once per calendar year, unless a full mouth X-ray, which include bitewings, has been paid in that same year.
2. Panoramic or full mouth X-rays (which may include bitewing X-rays) are payable once in any five-year period.
3. Any combination of teeth cleanings (prophylaxes, full mouth debridement, scaling in the presence of inflammation, and periodontal maintenance procedures) are payable twice per calendar year. Full mouth debridement is payable once in a lifetime.
4. Oral examinations and evaluations are only payable twice per calendar year, regardless of the Dentist's specialty.
5. Patient screening is payable once per calendar year.
6. Preventive fluoride treatments are payable twice per calendar year for people under age 19.
7. Space maintainers for posterior teeth are payable once in a lifetime for people under age 14. A distal shoe space maintainer is only payable for first permanent molars.
8. Cast restorations (including jackets, crowns and onlays) and associated procedures (such as core buildups and post substructures) are payable once in any five-year period per tooth.
9. Crowns or onlays are payable only for extensive loss of tooth structure due to caries (decay) or fracture (lost or mobile tooth structure).
10. Individual crowns over implants are payable at the prosthodontic benefit level once in a five year period.
11. Substructures, porcelain, porcelain substrate, and cast restorations are not payable for people under age 12.
12. Hard full or partial arch occlusal guards are payable once in a lifetime.
13. An interim partial denture is payable only for the replacement of permanent anterior teeth for people under age 17 or during the healing period for people age 17 and over.
14. Biologic materials to aid in soft and osseous tissue regeneration are payable once per tooth in a 36 month period.
15. Prosthodontic Services limitations:
    a. One complete upper and one complete lower denture, and any implant used to support a denture, are payable once in any five-year period.
    b. A removable partial denture, endosteal implant (other than to support a denture), or fixed bridge is payable once in any five-year period unless the loss of additional teeth requires the construction of a new appliance.
    c. Fixed bridges and removable partial dentures are not payable for people under age 16.
    d. A reline or the complete replacement of denture base material is payable once in any two-year period per appliance.
    e. Implant removal is payable once per lifetime per tooth or area.
    f. Implant maintenance is payable once per any twelve (12) month period.
    g. Removal of a broken implant retaining screw is payable once in a 5 year period.
16. Orthodontic Services limitations, if covered under your Plan pursuant to your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits:
    a. Orthodontic Services are payable for Members pursuant to the limits specified in your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits.
    b. If the treatment plan terminates before completion for any reason, Delta Dental's obligation for payment ends on the last day of the month in which the patient was last treated.
    c. Upon written notification to Delta Dental and to the patient, a Dentist may terminate treatment for lack of patient interest and cooperation. In those cases, Delta Dental's obligation for payment ends on the last day of the month in which the patient was last treated.
17. Delta Dental's obligation for payment of Benefits ends on the last day of coverage. However, Delta Dental will make payment for Covered Services provided on or before the last day of coverage, as long as Delta Dental receives a claim for those services within one year of the date of service. When services in progress are interrupted and completed later by another Dentist, Delta Dental will issue payment for any incomplete services; however, Delta Dental will calculate the Maximum Approved Fee that the dentist may charge you for such incomplete services, and those charges will be your responsibility. In the event the interrupted services are completed later by a Dentist, Delta Dental will review the Claim and determine the amount of payment, if any, to the Dentist in accordance with Delta Dental's policies at the time services are completed.
18. Care terminated due to the death of a Member will be paid to the limit of Delta Dental's liability for the services completed or in progress.
19. Optional treatment: If you select a more expensive service than is customarily provided, Delta Dental may make an allowance for certain services based on the fee for the customarily provided service. You are responsible for the difference in cost. In all cases, Delta Dental will make the final determination regarding optional treatment and any available allowance.

    Listed below are services for which Delta Dental will provide an allowance for optional treatment. Remember, you are responsible for the difference in cost for any optional treatment.

a. Resin, porcelain fused to metal, and porcelain crowns, bridge retainers, or pontics on posterior teeth – Delta Dental will pay only the amount that it would pay for a full metal crown.

b. Overdentures – Delta Dental will pay only the amount that it would pay for a conventional denture.

c. Resin, or porcelain/ceramic onlays on posterior teeth – Delta Dental will pay only the amount that it would pay for a metallic onlay.

d. Inlays, regardless of the material used – Delta Dental will pay only the amount that it would pay for an amalgam or composite resin restoration.

e. All-porcelain/ceramic bridges – Delta Dental will pay only the amount that it would pay for a conventional fixed bridge.

f. Implant/abutment supported complete or partial dentures – Delta Dental will pay only the amount that it would pay for a conventional denture.

g. Gold foil restorations – Delta Dental will pay only the amount that it would pay for an amalgam or composite restoration.

h. Posterior stainless steel crowns with esthetic facings, veneers, or coatings – Delta Dental will pay only the amount that it would pay for a conventional stainless steel crown.

20. Maximum Payment:

    All Benefits available under This Plan are subject to the Maximum Payment limitations set forth in your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits.

21. If a Deductible amount is stated in the Summary of Dental Plan Benefits, Delta Dental will not pay for any services or supplies, in whole or in part, to which the Deductible applies until the Deductible amount is met.

22. Caries risk assessments are payable once in any 36-month period for Members age 3-18.

23. Processing Policies may otherwise limit payment by Delta Dental for services or supplies.

Delta Dental will make no payment for services or supplies that exceed the following reductions. All charges are your responsibility. However, Participating Dentists may not charge Members for these services or supplies when performed by the same Dentist or dental office. All time limitations are measured from the applicable prior dates of services in our records with any Delta Dental Member Plan or, at the request of the Contractor, any dental plan:

1. Amalgam and composite resin restorations are payable once in any two-year period, regardless of the number or combination of restorations placed on a surface.

2. Core buildups and other substructures are payable only when needed to retain a crown on a tooth with excessive breakdown due to caries (decay) and/or fractures.

3. Recementation of a crown, onlay, inlay, space maintainer, or bridge within six months of the seating date.

4. Retention pins are payable once in any two-year period. Only one substructure per tooth is a Covered Service.

5. Root planing is payable once in any two-year period.

6. Periodontal surgery is payable once in any three-year period.

7. A complete occlusal adjustment is payable once in any five-year period. The fee for a complete occlusal adjustment includes all adjustments that are necessary for a five-year period. A limited occlusal adjustment is not payable more than three times in any five-year period. The fee for a limited occlusal adjustment includes all adjustments that are necessary for a six-month period.

8. Tissue conditioning is payable twice per arch in any three-year period.

9. The allowance for a denture repair (including reline or rebase) will not exceed half the fee for a new denture.

10. Services or supplies, as determined by Delta Dental, which are not provided in accordance with generally accepted standards of dental practice.

11. Distal shoe space maintainers are only payable for Members age 8 and under.

12. One caries risk assessment is allowed on the same date of service.

13. One caries risk assessment is allowed within a twelve (12) month period when done by the same dentist/dental office.

14. Processing Policies may otherwise limit payment by Delta Dental for services or supplies.

IX. Coordination of Benefits

All Benefits under this Certificate are subject to a coordination of benefits provision, if applicable, that is designed to provide maximum coverage, but not result in payment of more than 100 percent of the total fee for a given treatment.

Coordination of Benefits ("COB") applies to This Plan when a Member has dental benefits under more than one plan. The objective of COB is to make sure the combined payments of the plans are no more than your actual dental bills. COB rules establish whether This Plan's Benefits are determined before or after another plan's benefits.

A Plan is any of the following that provides benefits or services for, or because of, medical or dental care or treatment:

- Group insurance or group-type coverage, whether insured or uninsured. This includes pre-payment group practice, or individual practice coverage. It does not include school accident-type coverage, blanket, franchise, individual, automobile, or homeowner coverage.
- Coverage under a governmental plan or coverage required or provided by law. This does not include a state plan under Medicaid (Title XIX, Grants to States for Medical Assistance Programs, of the United States Social Security Act, as amended

from time to time). It also does not include any plan when, by law, its benefits are excess to those of any private insurance program or other non-governmental program.

You must submit your bills to the primary plan first. The primary plan must pay its full benefits as if you had no other coverage. If the primary plan denies your claim or does not pay the full bill, you may then submit the remainder of the bill to the secondary plan.

Allowable Expenses are necessary, reasonable, and customary items of expense for health care when the item of expense is covered at least in part by one or more plans covering the person for whom the Claim is made. Total benefits paid must be equal to 100 percent of necessary medical expenses covered by both plans. However, This Plan is not required to pay for an item, service, or benefit which is not a part of This Plan's Contract.

Which Plan is Primary?

To decide which plan is primary, Delta Dental will consider both the COB provisions of the other plan and the relationship of the Member to This Plan's Subscriber, as well as other factors. The primary plan is determined by the first of the following rules that applies:

1. **Non-coordinating Plan**

   If you have another plan that does not coordinate benefits, it will always be primary.

2. **Subscriber v. Dependent Coverage**

   The plan that covers the Member other than as a Subscriber will be primary over a plan that covers the Member as a dependent. However, please note that if the Member is a Medicare beneficiary, federal law may reverse this order.

3. **Children (Parents Divorced or Separated)**

   If a court decree makes one parent responsible for health care expenses, that parent's plan is primary.

   If a court decree states that the parents have joint custody without stating that one of the parents is responsible for the Child's health care expenses, Delta Dental follows the birthday rule (see rule 4 below).

   If neither of these rules applies, the order will be determined as follows:

   a. First, the plan of the parent with custody of the Child will be primary;

   b. Then, the plan of the spouse of the parent with custody of the Child will be primary;

   c. Next, the plan of the parent without custody of the Child will be primary;

   d. Last, the plan of the spouse of the parent without custody of the Child will be primary.

4. **Children and the Birthday Rule**

   The plan of the parent whose birthday is earliest in the calendar year is always primary for Children. For example, if your birthday is in January and your spouse's birthday is in March, your plan will be primary for all of your Children. If both parents have the same birthday, the plan that has covered the parent for the longer period will be primary.

5. **Laid Off or Retired Employees**

   The plan that covers the Member as a laid off or retired employee or as a dependent of a laid off or retired employee will be primary.

6. **COBRA Coverage**

   The plan that is provided under a right of continuation pursuant to federal law or a similar state law (that is, COBRA) will be primary.

7. **Other Plans**

   If none of the rules above determines the order of benefits, the plan that has covered the Member for the longer period will be primary.

If the other plan does not have rule 5 and/or rule 6 (above) and decides the order of benefits differently from This Plan, This Plan may ignore either of those rules.

In the event that these rules do not determine how Delta Dental should coordinate benefits with another plan, Delta Dental will follow its internal policies and procedures for determining which plan is primary, unless prohibited by applicable law.

How Delta Dental Pays as Primary Plan

When Delta Dental is the primary plan, it will pay for Covered Services as if you had no other coverage.

How Delta Dental Pays as Secondary Plan

Unless the Contractor has selected carve out coordination of benefits or non-duplication of benefits as stated in your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits, when Delta Dental is the secondary plan, it will pay for Covered Services based on the amount left after the primary plan has paid. It will not pay more than that amount, and it will not pay more than it would have paid as the primary plan.

When Benefits are reduced as described above, each Benefit is reduced in proportion. Benefits are then charged against any applicable benefit limit of This Plan.

Right to Receive and Release Needed Information

Delta Dental needs certain facts to apply these COB rules, and it has the right to decide which facts it needs. It may get needed facts from or give them to any other organization or person regarding the Claim being coordinated. Delta Dental need not tell or get the consent of any person to do this. Each person claiming Benefits under This Plan must give Delta Dental any facts it needs to pay the claim.

Facility of Payment

A payment made under another plan may include an amount that should have been paid under This Plan. If it does, Delta Dental may pay that amount to the organization that made the payment.

That amount will then be treated as though it were a Benefit paid under This Plan, and Delta Dental will not have to pay that amount again. The term "payment made" includes providing benefits in the form of services, in which case "payment made" means reasonable cash value of the benefits provided in the form of services.

Right of Recovery

If the amount of the payments made by Delta Dental is more than it should have paid under this COB provision, Delta Dental may recover the excess from the people it has paid or for whom it has paid;

Payment includes the reasonable cash value of any benefits provided in the form of services. This right of recovery is limited to two years after the date of the original Claim payment, unless Delta Dental has reasonable belief that fraud or intentional misconduct occurred.

X. Reconsideration and Claims Appeal Procedure

Reconsideration

If you receive notice of an Adverse Benefit Determination and you think that Delta Dental incorrectly denied all or part of your claim, you or your Dentist should contact Delta Dental's Customer Service department and ask them to check the claim to make sure it was processed correctly. You may do this by calling the toll-free number, (800) 662-8856, and speaking to a telephone advisor. You may also mail your inquiry to the Customer Service Department at P.O. Box 9089, Farmington Hills, Michigan, 48333-9089.

When writing, please enclose a copy of your explanation of benefits and describe the problem. Be sure to include your name, telephone number, the date, and any information you would like considered about your claim.

A request for reconsideration is not required and should not be considered a formal request for review of a denied claim. Delta Dental provides this opportunity for you to describe problems, or submit an explanation or additional information that might indicate your claim was improperly denied, and allow Delta Dental to correct any errors quickly and immediately.

Whether or not you have asked Delta Dental informally to reconsider its initial determination, you can request a formal review using the Formal Disputed Claims Procedure described below.

Formal Disputed Claims Procedure

If you receive notice of an Adverse Benefit Determination, you, or your authorized representative, should seek a review as soon as possible, but **you must file your request for review within 180 days** of the date that you received that Adverse Benefit Determination.

To request a formal review of your claim, send your request in writing to:

Dental Director
Delta Dental
P.O. Box 30416
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7916

Please include your name and address, the Subscriber's Member ID, the reason why you believe your claim was wrongly denied, and any other information you believe supports your claim. You also have the right to review the contract between Delta Dental and the Contractor and any documents related to it. If you would like a record of your request and proof that Delta Dental received it, mail your request certified mail, return receipt requested.

The Dental Director or any person reviewing your claim will not be the same as, nor subordinate to, the person(s) who initially decided your claim. The reviewer will grant no deference to the prior decision about your claim. The reviewer will assess the information, including any additional information that you have provided, as if he or she were deciding the claim for the first time. The reviewer's decision will take into account all comments, documents, records and other information relating to your claim even if the information was not available when your claim was initially decided.

If the decision is based, in whole or in part, on a dental or medical judgment (including determinations with respect to whether a particular treatment, drug, or other item is experimental, investigational, or not medically necessary or appropriate), the reviewer will consult a dental health care professional with appropriate training and experience, if necessary. The dental health care professional will not be the same individual or that person's subordinate consulted during the initial determination.

The reviewer will make a determination within 60 days of receipt of your request. If your claim is denied on review (in whole or in part), you will be notified in writing. The notice of an Adverse Benefit Determination during the Formal Disputed Claims Procedure will meet the requirements described below.

Manner and Content of Notice

Your notice of an Adverse Benefit Determination will inform you of the specific reasons(s) for the denial, the pertinent plan provisions(s) on which the denial is based, the applicable review procedures for dental claims, including time limits and that, upon request, you are entitled to access all documents, records and other information relevant to your claim free of charge. This notice will also contain a description of any additional materials necessary to complete your claim, an explanation of why such materials are necessary, and a statement that you have a right to bring a civil action in court if you receive an Adverse Benefit Determination after your claim has been completely reviewed according to this Formal Disputed Claims Procedure. The notice will also reference any internal rule, guideline, protocol, or similar document or criteria relied on in making the Adverse Benefit Determination, and will include a statement that a copy of such rule, guideline or protocol may be obtained upon request at no charge. If the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on a matter of medical judgment or medical necessity, the notice will also contain an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment on which the determination was based, or a statement that a copy of the basis for the scientific or clinical judgment can be obtained upon request at no charge.

The Adverse Benefit Determination notice will inform you of your right to a managerial conference to complete the formal grievance procedure.

XI. Termination of Coverage

Your Delta Dental coverage may automatically terminate:

- When the Contractor advises Delta Dental to terminate your coverage.
- On the first day of the month for which the Contractor has failed to pay Delta Dental.

- For fraud or misrepresentation in the submission of any claim.
- For your Dependent, when they no longer qualify as a Dependent.
- For any other reason stated in the contract between Delta Dental and the Contractor.

Delta Dental will not continue eligibility for any person covered under This Plan beyond the termination date requested by the Contractor. A person whose eligibility is terminated may not continue group coverage under this Certificate, except as required by the continuation coverage provisions of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 or comparable, non-preempted state law ("COBRA").

XII. Continuation of Coverage

If the Contractor is required to comply with COBRA and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") and your dental coverage would otherwise end, you and your Dependents may have the right to continue that coverage at your expense.

When is Plan Continuation Coverage Available?

Continuation coverage is available if your coverage or a covered Dependent's coverage would end because:

1. Your employment, if applicable, ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.
2. You do not qualify as an Enrollee as set forth in your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits.
3. You are divorced or legally separated.
4. You die.
5. Your Dependent is no longer a Dependent.
6. You become enrolled in Medicare (if applicable).
7. You are called to active duty in the armed forces of the United States.

If you believe you are entitled to continuation coverage, you should contact the Contractor to receive the appropriate documentation required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

XIII. General Conditions

Assignment

Services and Benefits are for the personal benefit of Members and cannot be transferred or assigned, other than to pay Participating Dentists directly.

Obtaining and Releasing Information

While you and/or your Dependent(s) are enrolled in This Plan, you and/or your Dependent(s) agree to provide Delta Dental with any information it needs to process Claims and administer Benefits for you and/or your Dependent(s). This includes allowing Delta Dental access to your dental records.

Dentist-Patient Relationship

Members are free to choose any Dentist. Each Dentist is solely responsible for the treatment and/or dental advice provided to the Member, and Delta Dental does not have any liability resulting therefrom.

Loss of Eligibility During Treatment

If a Member loses eligibility while receiving dental treatment, only Covered Services received while that person was covered under This Plan will be payable.

Certain services begun before the loss of eligibility may be covered if they are completed within 60 days from the date of termination. In those cases, Delta Dental evaluates those services in progress to determine what portion may be paid by Delta Dental. The difference between Delta Dental's payment and the total fee for those services is your responsibility. This provision does not apply to orthodontics if covered under this plan.

Late Claims Submissions

Delta Dental will make no payment for services or supplies if a claim for such has not been received by Delta Dental within one year following the date the services or supplies were completed. In the event that a Participating Provider submits a Claim more than one year from the date of service, Delta Dental will deny that portion of the Claim that Delta Dental would have paid if the Claim had been timely submitted. However, you will remain responsible for any applicable Deductible and/or Co-Insurance. In the event that a Nonparticipating Provider submits a claim more than one year from the date of service, Delta Dental will Deny the Claim and you may be responsible for the full amount.

Change of Certificate or Contract

No changes to this Certificate, your Summary of Dental Plan Benefits, or the underlying contract are valid unless Delta Dental approves them in writing.

Actions

You cannot bring an action on a legal claim arising out of or related to this Certificate unless you have provided at least 60 days' written notice to Delta Dental, unless prohibited by applicable state law. In addition, you cannot bring an action more than three years after the legal claim first arose or after expiration of the applicable statute of limitations, whichever is shorter. Any person seeking to do so will be deemed to have waived his or her right to bring suit on such legal claim. Except as set forth above, this provision does not preclude you from seeking a judicial decision or pursuing other available legal remedies.

Governing Law

This Certificate and the underlying group contract will be governed by and interpreted under the laws of the state of North Carolina.

Legally Mandated Benefits

If any applicable law requires broader coverage or more favorable treatment for you or your Dependents than is provided by this Certificate, that law shall control over the language of this Certificate.

Change of Status

You must notify Delta Dental, through the Contractor, of any event that changes the status of a Dependent. Events that can affect the status of a Dependent include, but are not limited to, marriage, birth, death, divorce, and entrance into military service.

Right of Recovery Due to Fraud

If Delta Dental pays for services that were sought or received under fraudulent, false, or misleading pretenses or circumstances, pays a claim that contains false or misrepresented information, or pays a claim that is determined to be fraudulent due to your acts or acts of your Dependents, it may recover that payment from you or your Dependents. You and your Dependents authorize Delta Dental to recover any payment determined to be based on false, fraudulent, misleading, or misrepresented information by deducting that amount from any payments properly due to you or your Dependents. Delta Dental will provide an explanation of the payment recovery at the time the deduction is made.

Any person intending to deceive an insurer, who knowingly submits an application or files a claim containing a false or misleading statement, is guilty of insurance fraud.

Insurance fraud significantly increases the cost of health care. If you are aware of any false information submitted to Delta Dental, please call our toll-free hotline. We only accept anti-fraud calls at this number.

ANTI-FRAUD TOLL-FREE HOTLINE:

(800) 524-0147